



CITY HALL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
PAT Meeting #8
City Hall Boards and Commissions Room
Monday, June 1, 2006, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

AGENDA WITH MEETING NOTES

Summary of Last PAT Meeting, Cheryl Fraser, Parks South Operations Manager

Cheryl reviewed the questionnaire. Most of the responses were from King County employees. The top issues were safety and cleanliness. They hope for a place where they can safely have lunch and engage in passive recreation.

Summary of May 31 Community meeting, Cathy Tuttle, Parks Planner

Cathy said most responses to the design were positive. There was some concern about the fencing and about the need to remove some trees. Some community also requested public art.

Discussions with King County and Center City Parks Initiative, B.J. Brooks, Parks Deputy Superintendent

B.J. Brooks described how City Hall Park Improvements discussions with King County. The City met with County staff and will brief the County Council of the Whole on the park improvements on 6-5-06. The overall response to the design is very positive. King County will begin discussions about security, maintenance, and programming in collaboration with the City. The County Council is now exploring the possibility of reopening the south entry of the County Courthouse building.

B.J. Brooks also described how fit into the Center City Parks Initiative.

- Center City Parks Initiative will focus on programming and security of 25 downtown parks
- Parks will step up security for City Hall Park -- working with MID ambassador.
- Parks will ask for funds for collaborative maintenance.
- Parks needs to assess when larger capital outlays are needed for upgrades and when day to day costs for smaller but still significant items such as benches.

Schematic Design, Nakano Associates

Kenichi Nakano presented the schematic design. All design options, including the new design, can be reviewed on the project website at: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/maintenance/CityHallPark.htm>

- Nakano presented locations of restroom building (mini-shelter house)
- Areas for basketball, playground, or off-leash were explored with overlays on the design.
- Locations and impacts of decorative fencing and trees were detailed.
- Design has 50% hardscape / vegetation based on comments by Preservation Board.
- Belvedere in the north is at same entry level as KC building– creates flat area for stage, vendor, coffee shop, indoor/outdoor.
- There are many fixed benches planned but additional temporary furniture would also be ideal and could be stored within building or parking garage
- Central plaza is 40'x80' – large enough for tent, arts festival. Plaza flanked with lawn areas.

This project will help build a stronger community and healthy families, one of Mayor Greg Nickels' highest priorities for Seattle.
<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/maintenance/CityHallPark.htm> * cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov (206) 684-7033

- Design saved significant anchor trees but removes ten trees
- Dilling Way is closed but is still paved.
- Wrought iron gates bring sense of safety and security.

PAT comments and questions on design

- Like the design. Concerned about programming.
- Decorative fence should be used to define space rather than exclude
- What is the park trying to achieve with the fence? Is it defining space or controlling space?
- Different rules apply on each side of the fences. They are psychological barriers but not security fences. They are used for control not access. Fences identify an area as special – a place to enter with grass rather than a whole undefined park.
- The park design will move forward as money becomes available.
- The plan will work with King County's south entry if it is reopened.
- The restroom building should be called a mini-field house. We need restrooms here, but we also need area for vending, storage, MID rangers security.
- We need to have "eyes" in the restroom. The vendor could control by key?
- What about the historic wall. How can it be incorporated into the restroom building?
- Is there a market for a coffee cart? Could FareStart or another social agency group staff a cart?
- Can a social service agency client staff the comfort station?
- Park ranger for this park could be funded by King County.
- What kind of storage would go in the building? Lawnmowers? Vending equipment?
- A Park Ranger could steer people to appropriate social service providers. DESC provides street outreach and personal connections.
- How does County feel about closing Dilling Way since it provides ADA parking?
- Feeding programs in the park – Parks is concerned about safety, cleanliness and camping – church feeding programs have been known to throw food on the ground and leave. Garbage, safety of concern here.

Next Steps

- **Board of Park Commissioners Briefing / Public Hearing June 8**
- Board of Park Commissioners Recommendation June 22
- City Council briefing tbd

To make comments contact:

Board of Park Commissioners. Before June 20, Sandy Brooks, Park Board
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